Demand of rice by Tamil Nadu

455. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand made by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Central Government for supply of rice to meet the drought situation;

(b) the total allocation made by the Centre to meet the situation; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide adequate stocks of rice to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Tamil Nadu demanded 9.00 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for the current drought against which a quantity of 4.50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated.

Distribution of food items Through Fair Price Shops

456. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrains and other essential commodities now being distributed through Fair Price Shops;

(b) the prices of these commodities in the Fair Price Shops and also in the open market as on the 30th June, 2003; and

(c) the types of commodities and the quantity per head as are now being distributed to the BPL families alongwith the per kg. rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Central Government presently makes available to the States wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs). Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption through the FPSs such as cloth, exercise books, pulses, salt, tea etc.

(b) and (c) The Central Issue Prices and the scale of issue of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene as on 30.6.2003 are as under:-

Central Issue Price (Rs. per kg.)				Scale of issue of foodgrains (rice and wheat) per family per month
	APL	BPL	AAY	
Rice	8.30	5.65	3.00	35 kg.
Wheat	6.10	4.15	2.00	35 kg.
Sugar: Rs. 13.50 (retail price of levy sugar)				The scale of issue differs from State to State and varies between 500 grams to 1625 grams per person per month.
Kerosene: The retail issue price ranges between Rs. 8.80 to Rs. 10.50 per ltr. and varies from State to State and even from place to place within the State.				The scale of issue ranges between 3 ltrs. to 12 ltrs. per card per month and varies from State to State and even from place to place within the State.

The data on prices of these items in open market is not maintained.

Import of Palmolien through STC

457. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 332 given in Rajya Sabha on the 13th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to permit the State Governments to import 18,000 tons of RBD Palmolien through STC with 45 per cent duty under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government have decided not to permit such import under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) in view of the non-feasibility as per the WTO provisions.